

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing device for selecting an image and transferring the selected image to an image output section that outputs the selected image according to image data generated by an image generating device and image generation record information associated with the image data, the image generation record information including at least operation information of the image generating device at the time that the image data is generated, the image processing device comprising:

an analyzer configured to analyze both the image data and the image generation record information associated with the image data to determine an image quality parameter relating to quality of an image represented by the image data; and

a selector configured to perform, on the basis of the image quality parameter, an output target decision regarding whether to select the image data as an output target, wherein

the analyzer calculates an edge amount at each pixel position in the image, and determines as the image quality parameter using a first average value of the edge amounts weighted by a first weight distribution that is determined according to the image generation record information assigned to an area of the image,

the first weight distribution is determined independently from the edge amounts,

the area includes a subject location in the image, the subject location being recorded in the image generation record information, and the area has a same aspect ratio as the image and is smaller than the image,

a first weight in the first weight distribution is constant throughout the area, and the first weight is zero outside of the area,

the first weight in the area is the same as a weight on a boundary between the area and an other area of the image, the other area of the image being different from the area,

the selector selects as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, the threshold value being a second average value of edge amounts calculated using a second weight,

the second weight is constant throughout the image regardless of whether the second weight is inside the area, outside of the area, or on the boundary between the area and the other area, and

the selector does not select as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is less than the threshold value.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Original): An image processing device according to claim 1 wherein
the analyzer determines a first characteristic value of the quality characteristic
parameter that indicates a characteristic relating to sharpness of the image, and
the selector performs the output target decision on the basis of the first characteristic
value.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): An image processing device according to claim 5 wherein
the image generation record information includes subject location information for the
image, and
the analyzer determines the first characteristic value using the subject location
information.

Claims 8-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An image output device for outputting an image according
to image data generated by an image generating device and image generation record
information associated with the image data, the image generation record information
including at least operation information of the image generating device at the time that the
image data is generated, the image output device comprises:

an analyzer configured to analyze both the image data and the image generation record
information associated with the image data to determine an image quality parameter relating
to quality of an image represented by the image data;

a selector configured to perform, on the basis of the image quality parameter, an
output target decision regarding whether to select the image data as an output target; and

an output section configured to output an image using the image data that has been
selected as the output target by the selector, wherein

the analyzer calculates an edge amount at each pixel position in the image, and
determines as the image quality parameter using a first average value of the edge amounts

weighted by a first weight distribution that is determined according to the image generation record information assigned to an area of the image,

the first weight distribution is determined independently from the edge amounts,

the area includes a subject location in the image, the subject location being recorded in the image generation record information, and the area has a same aspect ratio as the image and is smaller than the image,

a first weight in the first weight distribution is constant throughout the area, and the first weight is zero outside of the area,

the first weight in the area is the same as a weight on a boundary between the area and an other area of the image, the other area of the image being different from the area,

the selector selects as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, the threshold value being a second average value of edge amounts calculated using a second weight,

the second weight is constant throughout the image regardless of whether the second weight is inside the area, outside of the area, or on the boundary between the area and the other area, and

the selector does not select as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is less than the threshold value.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of selecting an image and transferring the selected image to an image output section that outputs the selected image according to image data generated by an image generating device and image generation record information associated with the image data, the image generation record information including at least operation information of the image generating device at the time that the image data is generated, the method comprising:

analyzing both the image data and the image generation record information associated with the image data to determine an image quality parameter relating to quality of an image represented by the image data; and

performing, on the basis of the image quality parameter, an output target decision regarding whether to select the image data as an output target, wherein

the analyzing of the image data and the image generation record information includes calculating an edge amount at each pixel position in the image, and determining as the image quality parameter ~~using~~ a first average value of the edge amounts weighted by a first weight

distribution that is determined according to the image generation record information assigned to an area of the image,

the first weight distribution is determined independently from the edge amounts,

the area includes a subject location in the image, the subject location being recorded in the image generation record information, and the area has a same aspect ratio as the image and is smaller than the image,

a first weight in the first weight distribution is constant throughout the area, and the first weight is zero outside of the area,

the first weight in the area is the same as a weight on a boundary between the area and an other area of the image, the other area of the image being different from the area,

the performing of the output target decision includes selecting as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, the threshold value being a second average value of edge amounts calculated using a second weight,

the second weight is constant throughout the image regardless of whether the second weight is inside the area, outside of the area, or on the boundary between the area and the other area, and

the performing of the output target decision includes not selecting as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is less than the threshold value.

Claims 18-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 17 wherein

the analyzing of the image data and the image generation record information includes determining a first characteristic value of the quality characteristic parameter that indicates a characteristic relating to sharpness of the image, and

the performing of the output target decision includes performing the output target decision on the basis of the first characteristic value.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 21 wherein
the image generation record information includes subject location information for the image, and
the analyzing of the image data and the image generation record information includes determining the first characteristic value using the subject location information.

Claims 24-31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A method of outputting an image according to image data generated by an image generating device and image generation record information associated with the image data, the image generation record information including at least operation information of the image generating device at the time that the image data is generated, the method comprising:

analyzing both the image data and the image generation record information associated with the image data to determine an image quality parameter relating to quality of an image represented by the image data;

performing, on the basis of the image quality parameter, an output target decision regarding whether to select the image data as an output target; and

outputting an image using the image data that has been selected as the output target by the selector, wherein

the ~~the~~ analyzing of the image data and the image generation record information includes calculating an edge amount at each pixel position in the image, and determining as the image quality parameter using a first average value of the edge amounts weighted by a first weight distribution that is determined according to the image generation record information assigned to an area of the image,

the first weight distribution is determined independently from the edge amounts,

the area includes a subject location in the image, the subject location being recorded in the image generation record information, and the area has a same aspect ratio as the image and is smaller than the image,

a first weight in the first weight distribution is constant throughout the area, and the first weight is zero outside of the area,

the first weight in the area is the same as a weight on a boundary between the area and an other area of the image, the other area of the image being different from the area,

the performing of the output target decision includes selecting as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, the threshold value being a second average value of edge amounts calculated using a second weight,

the second weight is constant throughout the image regardless of whether the second weight is inside the area, outside of the area, or on the boundary between the area and the other area, and

the performing of the output target decision includes not selecting as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is less than the threshold value.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium; and

a computer program stored on the computer-readable storage medium, the computer program including [[:]]

a first program for causing a computer to analyze both the image data and the image generation record information associated with the image data to determine an image quality parameter relating to quality of an image represented by the image data; and

a second program for causing the computer to perform, on the basis of the image quality parameter, an output target decision regarding whether to select the image data as an output target, wherein

the first program includes a program for causing a computer to calculate an edge amount at each pixel position in the image, and to determine as the image quality parameter using a first average value of the edge amounts weighted by a first weight distribution that is determined according to the image generation record information assigned to an area of the image,

the first weight distribution is determined independently from the edge amounts,

the area includes a subject location in the image, the subject location being recorded in the image generation record information, and the area has a same aspect ratio as the image and is smaller than the image,

a first weight in the first weight distribution is constant throughout the area, and the first weight is zero outside of the area,

the first weight in the area is the same as a weight on a boundary between the area and an other area of the image, the other area of the image being different from the area,

the second program includes a program for causing a computer to select as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is equal to or greater than a threshold value, the threshold value being a second average value of edge amounts calculated using a second weight,

the second weight is constant throughout the image regardless of whether the second weight is inside the area, outside of the area, or on the boundary between the area and the other area, and

the second program includes a program for causing a computer not to select as the output target the image data having an image quality parameter that is less than the threshold value.

Claims 34-37 (Canceled).